



All Saints Catholic School

134 Maple Street
Rossford, Ohio 43460
(419) 666-0717 Primary Bldg.
(419) 661-2070 Middle School

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DEC 16 1996

December, 1996

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW, Room 814
Washington, DC 20554

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CC: Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We write in strong support of affordable and meaningful discounts for all schools, public and non-public, and libraries, so that every school child or life long learner can have access to the amazing wealth of knowledge available through information technology. The passage of the Telecommunications Act earlier this year mandates the development of a rate for education, public and non-public, or an "e-rate" to secure affordable rates reflecting the financial capability of our communities.

As the Federal Communications Commission and the Federal-State Joint Board implement the universal service provision, we ask you to ensure that telecommunications companies provide services to all schools and libraries at significantly discounted rates.

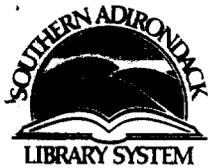
We urge you to act upon this historic opportunity to bring the world of information to every school child and life-long learner in America.

Sincerely,
The Faculty and Staff of All Saints Catholic School.

Susan V. Pesci
Sue Bowers
Jeri Reichert
Susan Grod
Sister Patricia Hejna
Carol Gutierrez
Kim Kwiatkowski
Sister M. Seneaus Samuel
Sister Denise Hoffman
Hayel Couert

Gaye Burrell
Ramona K. Jenkins
Sister Diana Lynn
Elizabeth A. Taylor
Shirley A. Miller

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SOUTHERN ADIRONDACK LIBRARY SYSTEM

Edward M. O'Connor, Director

22 Whitney Place, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-4596

Telephone: 518/584-7300 Fax: 518/587-5589

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December 10, 1996

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission - Room 222
1919 M Street
Washington DC 20554

Dear Office of the Secretary:

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45 Recommended Decision, Universal Service

The Southern Adirondack Library System and the Mohawk Valley Library Association, two state-funded public library consortia, serve 51 member public libraries and branches in a mostly rural area of almost 6,000 square miles in upstate New York. Because of a lack of funds and costly telecommunications tariffs we are unable to connect more than 18 of the 52 sites (as shown on the enclosed map) to our computer system for access to the Internet and other electronic services.

We had hoped that the Telecommunications Act of 1996 would provide us with no-nonsense, easy-to-acquire discounts on telecommunications tariffs, one of the goals of the new law for universal service for the public via public libraries.

We are disappointed in and object to the requirement in the Recommended Decision for an elaborate application procedure for discounts on telecommunications for schools and libraries. The "bona fide request" section of the law (Section 254(h)(1)(B)) need not be translated in the Recommended Decision into RFPs, competitive bidding, award of bids and other red tape which will only serve to delay and often deny universal service to the public via schools and libraries.

Such procedures are guaranteed to favor large organizations with grant-writing staff and undermine the ability of smaller organizations with no such staff to take advantage of the benefits promised in the new law. These procedures would further enlarge an already large, bureaucratic and expensive administrative effort proposed in the Recommended Decision.

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Because of the competitive nature of the grant application process, it is conceivable that some states could be treated unfairly with grants being awarded to a limited number of areas of the country with the most aggressive grant-application writers.

We do not understand why simple formulas can not be devised to guarantee discounts for eligible schools and libraries. The proposed annual application process could have the negative effect of allowing a discount for a school or library one year and then denying it the next. This would not be universal service, it would be terminated service.

Our library patrons and our school children should not be dependent for the promised universal service on the size of the staff of the parent organization or on the judgments of an army of application evaluators.

Thank you for allowing me to make these comments.

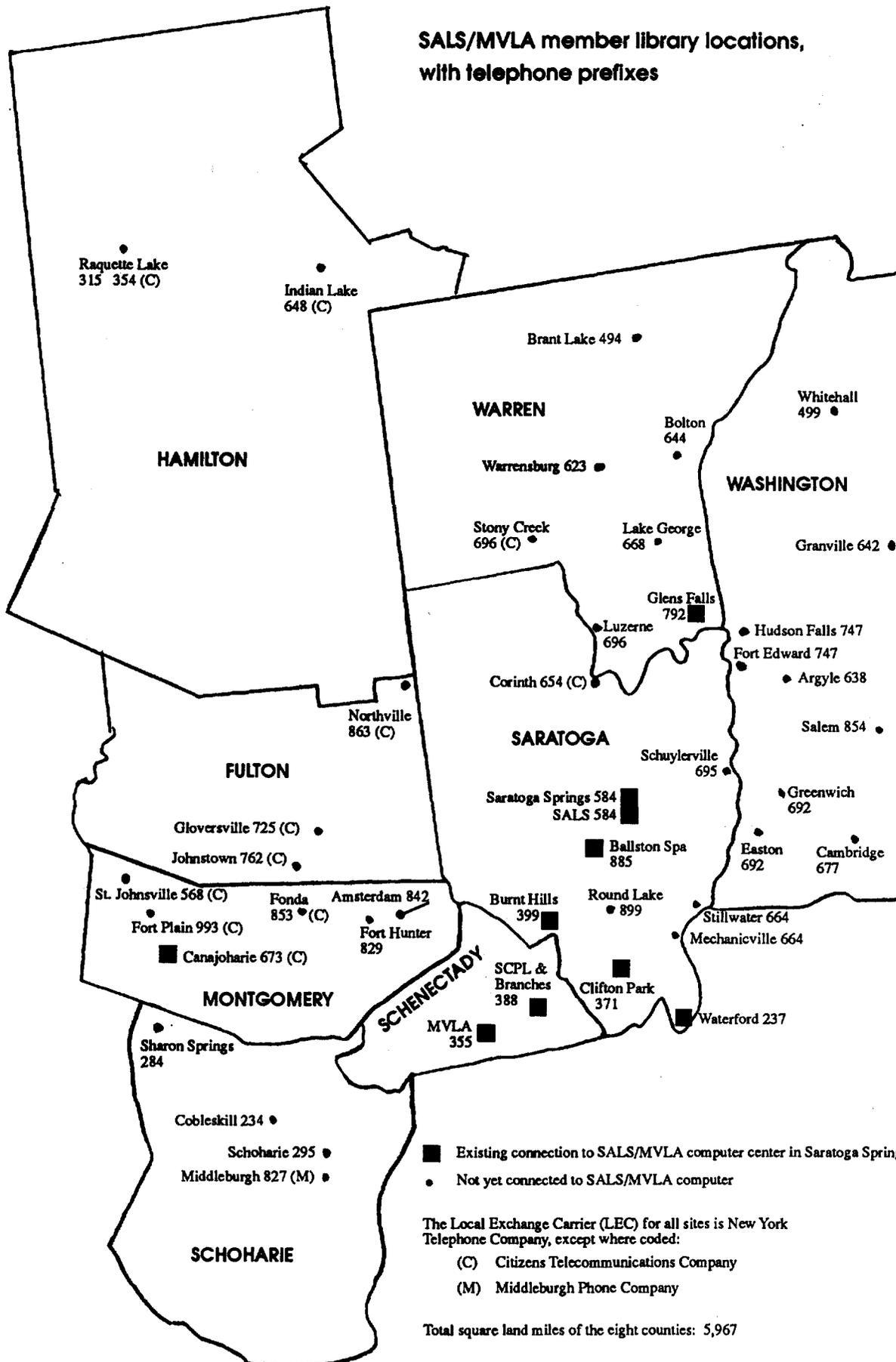
Sincerely,

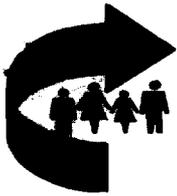
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward M. O'Connor". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Edward M. O'Connor

Distribution: Original and four copies to Office of the Secretary, FCC
Names on Service List, CC Docket No. 96-45
International Transcription Service
Gerald Solomon, Representative, U.S. Congress

**SALS/MVLA member library locations,
with telephone prefixes**





Brandon School District

1025 South Ortonville Road, Ortonville, Michigan 48462 • (810) 627-4981 • FAX (810) 627-4533

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Administrative Offices
1025 South Ortonville Road
FAX (810) 627-4533

Brandon High School
1025 South Ortonville Road
FAX (810) 627-5628

Brandon Middle School
1025 South Ortonville Road
FAX (810) 627-5628

**Brandon Fletcher
Intermediate School**
300 South Street
FAX (810) 627-7028

**Belle Anne Elementary
School**
155 East Glass Road
FAX (810) 627-5715

**H.T. Burt Elementary
School**
209 Varsity Drive
FAX (810) 627-7027

**Harvey-Swanson
Elementary School**
209 Varsity Drive
FAX (810) 627-7027

**Sherman Lifelong
Learning Center**
330 Sherman Court
(810) 627-2834
FAX (810) 627-5079

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Brandon School District, located in Ortonville, Michigan. We are extremely excited and support the passage of the Telecommunication Act of 1996, which provides universal service to K-12 schools and libraries. As stated in an October 10, 1996, letter from the Secretaries of Education that was posted on the Internet,

Technological literacy is a critical skill for America's students to succeed in the 21st Century. Simply put, today's work force rewards those workers who possess computer literacy skills, and tomorrow's work force will demand computer literacy skills. In order to prepare our children to meet the challenges of the 21st Century, universal access to the Information Superhighway will be critical. The Internet, in many ways, is the blackboard of the future. It is our strong belief that by advancing free basic access, we will increase the pace of classroom learning and continuing efforts to improve education.

With the passage of the Telecommunication Act of 1996, the Federal Communications Commission Joint Board will provide school districts like Brandon the opportunity to prepare our students to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. We will be able to integrate computer technologies into the classroom that will enhance our classroom learning and curriculum.

Sincerely,

Robin McClelland
Technology Coordinator

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Gerald Lauber
516-673-1610

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December 12, 1996

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The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

As Superintendent of Schools of the South Huntington School District, I would like to thank you for your leadership and the leadership of the Joint Board for their strong decision to ensure that all schools will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway. I urge the FCC to fully adopt the recommendations of the Joint Board.

The discount range of 20 to 90 percent will ensure that all schools - even the poorest - have truly affordable access. The plan is also very flexible and will empower schools to select the services that work best for their educational mission. The inclusion of discounts on internal connections and Internet access is equally vital and stands to bring services directly to the classroom where students learn.

As you move ahead in your deliberation on this important issue, I urge you to seize this opportunity to bring 21st century learning to our school children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerald Lauber'.

Gerald Lauber
Superintendent of Schools

GL:jh

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